Rep. Rooney Pressures Stevens

By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

Probably the most vindictive man on Capitol Hill is Rep. J. Rooney, the Brooklyn Democrat, who for the first time in many years has a Democratic primary opponent. As a result, John is more vindictive than ever.

His opponent, Frederick Richmond, has been rolling up a lot of support in Rooney's reapportioned district, which is no longer Irish Catholic but strongly Jewish and Negro. Rooney has loafed for years around election time, seldom goes back home to shake hands or make a speech. His opponent, Fred Richmond, is doing just the opposite.

The other day, Rooney heard of a cocktail party given for Richmond by former Assistant Secretary of Commerce Thomas G. Wyman at which Roger Stevens, White House Assistant for the Arts Program, was scheduled to speak.

Three days before the party, Rooney telephoned Stevens and bellowed: "If you want any sort of budget passed out of my committee, you get out of that cocktail party.

"And you also write a letter of apology stating that it was all a mistake, and send a carbon copy to me."

Stevens, who is dedicated to putting across an arts program in Washington and needed money from Congress for it, wrote the letter. Rooney has the power of life and death over his appropriations.

Speaking at the cocktail party instead of Stevens was theatrical producer Robert Dowling. He personally pledged a large sum of money to defeat Rooney, and told the crowd how important it was to get the crotchety Congressman from Brooklyn out of Washington.

Politically Senile?

Sen. Frank Lausche, the Ohio lame duck, took up about 20 minutes of a closed door Senate Commerce Committee meeting the other day to lambast Frank Stanton, head of CBS, and Julian Goodman, head of NBC, for their alleged ill treatment of him over a Cleveland radio station. In the end it developed that neither NBC nor CBS was involved.

"Your station claimed that I was senile, and offered me equal time to prove that I wasn't," complained the Senator from Ohio.

Lausche got his Cleveland stations mixed up. Finally it developed that the station involved was WIXY in Cleveland whose disc jockey Joe Finan had said that Lausche represents "The archaic politics of yesterday. He is politically senile."

Trick on Morse

One reason why Sen. Wayne Morse nearly lost out in the Oregon primary was a smart trick played on him by Bobby Kennedy's henchmen. They put Morse's name on a Kennedy card as a Kennedy delegate and mailed it to thousands of voters on the eve of the primary.

"I was furious," said Mrs. K. C. Tanner of Portland. "The card said, 'You can help elect the next President of the United States. The Oregon Committee for Kennedy recommends the support of these delegates.' And it listed prominently Wayne Morse.

"I called Morse headquarters and they said he was not supporting Kennedy. He was supporting no one. They said they had been getting calls all day. Some people didn't call. They just went out and voted against Morse because he was supposed to be for Kennedy."

LBJR to LBJ

Lynda Bird Johnson Robb is a young lady who sometimes talks back to the President of the United States. Within the family it is sometimes said that Lynda Bird is a chip off the old block.

The other evening at a private party a friend reminded her what happened after her father was defeated for the Presidential nomination at the Democratic Convention in Los Angeles in 1960.

"I went out to Disneyland and father couldn't find me when he was nominated for Vice President. He kept calling all over the place to get me to be on the platform when he accepted the Vice Presidential nomination.

"When he finally got me he was pretty sore.

"'We didn't come out here to go to Disneyland,' he said.

"I said, 'We didn't come out here to be Vice President either.'"

Auto Insurance Probe

Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.), who has just written a book, "The Dark Side of the Marketplace," on the plight of the American consumer, is planning to become a regular author. He has another book in the works, this one on the plight of the American automobile driver at the hands of the insurance companies.

Magnuson points out that when there's a five-car crack-up, the owners of the five different cars usually have different insurance policies calling for five different types of remuneration. There is also diverse and conflicting insurance in different states, the question of whether auto insurance should be compulsory, and finally refusal of some insurance companies to renew. This leaves a driver unable to drive his car at all. Finally, there is the case of bankrupt and fly-by-night insurance companies.

If the Senator from Washington digs deep into auto insurance, his book should be a best seller.

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